With a history of more than 2000 years, the game of badminton has used variations of what would be the modern day “shuttlecock” or “birdie”—the latter slang connected the missile to the flying animal replete with feathers and a weighted cork assisting its flight trajectory and avian appearance.

At the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore, documents survive of a 1742 order of battledores & shuttlecocks sent to Maryland from an English merchant. American gentry began to have portraits of their sons painted with their bright red battledores and shuttlecocks, the spelling of which varied across the years.

Bored British Army officers in India during the 19th century began to play a form of this game much like the one they had learned as children in England. Known in its early days as Poona, it was played with many people working together to keep the bird in air, similar to the English game of battledore & shuttlecock.

Some claim the name Badminton came from England’s Duke of Beaufort, whose English country estate named Badminton House, was the site of the game being played at a lawn party in 1873, and perhaps it was played there even earlier. Others note that a London toy dealer named Isaac Spratt published a booklet, “Badminton Battledore—a new game” in 1860, but unfortunately no one has been able to locate a surviving copy.

This year's shuttlecock design juror is Dr. Patricia Burt, Associate Professor of Music at Harford Community College and a notable Badminton Competitor.

If you are submitting in the Functional Category, your shuttlecock must be entered in the Sport Group. The Sport Group has a battery of competitions that test your shuttlecock's design, such as trajectory distance, lift force, aerodynamic drag coefficient and gravitational acceleration—all which will be measured by The Bernoulli Syndicate from Yankton, South Dakota with their R-166 subsonic experimental wind tunnel on campus for the tournament.

Submitting to the Non-Functional Category requires one only to fill out the form within this prospectus. You can submit your designs to both categories if you wish. Fill out a form for each. Good Luck!

Deadline for submitting your Shuttlecock Designs to the Contest is Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016

Submit all Shuttlecock designs to Prof. Kenneth Jones or Sean Riordan at the Mac Lab Studios Room J003/J005 Joppa Hall on the campus of Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland with the appropriate form. Direct any questions to kjones@harford.edu.

There is no fee to enter. All submissions are accepted and will be on display in Joppa Hall until May 31st, 2016

Shuttlecocks in the Functional Category will be tested and exhibited at the Badminton Tournament taking place on the Sports Grounds at Harford Community College on Friday, May 6th, 2016 1:30 to 4:00 pm

We hope you participate in this event. All proceeds from the Tournament go to the Student Art Purchase Fund. The 2016 Best in Show Award is announced at the tournament.